

# Sedalia Weekly Conservator.

VOL. I.

SEDALIA, MO., SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 1906.

NO. 4.

## Say!

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## COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

Arthur Diggs, of the Douglass High School, Columbia Mo., Discusses Its Relationship to Our Racial and National Life, in His Graduating Oration, on May, 31st.

That country alone is happy whose people are intelligent, virtuous and busy. The aim of every government should be to make its people happy, prosperous and powerful. The American government perhaps the best government the world has seen thus far, truly seeks to secure to each member of society his fullest enjoyment of all the good of society. The surest security any people may have for all that is good is broad learning. Not only that but an intelligent citizenship is absolutely necessary to every free government.

In the beginning of the government this idea was all important. It entered the very life of the constitution. Let us read the preamble:

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for common defense, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America."

A perfect union can only exist among an intelligent people. Nowhere does history show that justice has been secured by ignorance, but the opposite is true. Harmony and tranquility is the home of trained and virtuous people. No others can enjoy such blessings. Does anyone believe the general welfare can be promoted by ignorance? Did ignorance ever secure that blessing to anybody, or to any people? Yet our government was formed to confer these very blessings upon each of its citizens.

It is plain that all those great principles set forth in the preamble are the inheritance, the privilege and enjoyments of the educated, the cultured, the refined. The very government itself is secure only in these qualities of her citizens, therefore the government should provide means whereby each child should be so trained that he enters in the body politic, capable of not only enjoying, but suited to improve them, defend them and transmit them unimpaired to others. Not only should the government provide these means but has a right to compel proper use of these means. By compelling proper use of all educational privileges is another way of protecting society from the vicious.

The purposes of an education

is to prepare one for the right living and one's powers are increased in proportion as he becomes more acquainted with the things that make a civilized people or the elements which constitute our great country.

Three hundred years ago the trained Englishmen came to this country and with his education has made this great and powerful nation. Booker T Washington, though a Negro, education makes him one of the foremost men of the world. Blessings everywhere await him. With an educated citizenship the greatest blessings of the age will flow around us. Great good will be brought to all. If each parent sends his children to school properly law-abiding citizens will greet you everywhere. Note the great part education played in the making of the lives of the Greeks and Romans. Every man was educated. At Sparta, for military service, at Athens for complete manhood. This general education made them a powerful race.

We have many notable men of influence such as Page, Vernon, Scruggs, Yates and Miller. These with many others have done much for the education of the Negro youths, which is a blessing not only to the man but to humanity. If many others will follow the path they have so eagerly trodden, this great race problem will be solved.

Many years ago the Indians inhabited this country rich in all the elements of a great people and a country but he got nothing out of it. Ignorance led to his eternal undoing. Look back many years ago. You see the dark cloud of slavery hanging over our country. The Negro was then bound in chains and lashed with the whip of a cruel master, without any hope, desire or ambition. No intelligent people can be so enslaved. Ignorance of the law of health and wealth leads everywhere to misfortune. It is at this moment sapping the life of the race. An old English writer has said: "It is better for a boy to be unborn than untaught."

An educated people are everywhere a conquering people. For example take the Russian and Japanese. The Japanese, a nation greatly devoted to education, about 95 per cent of them being educated, while about 95 per cent of the Russians are ignorant. Still more the Japanese a race small of stature, belonging to the darker

racess, with a country little more than twice the size of Missouri, while Russia the largest country of the globe, with perhaps the best developed men physically, belonging to the most haughty race. But Cossacks and Russians, the most terrible army marshalled in modern times, went down before educated Japanese.

Education preserves one from evil habits, it creates for us new fields of pleasure. It preserves one from evil thoughts. Every new appliance or discovery enlarges the field of research, every step up the mountain of knowledge furnishes a better view of the unexpected domain of science, leads you into this realm of learning and spends your energies on the ideal.

Education provides innocent enjoyments. The great social problems of the day demand well trained minds as well as the highest of native ability. For we are essentially social beings and no system is complete which ignores this element of our nature. But all refined natures will seek the ideal, seek the ideal social amusements as well as in business.

Governments whose people are educated are safe and prosperous. This is proved here among us. The United States is a government that educates its people safe and prosperous. In order that every person may acquire an education, the law has established public schools.

The aim of free education is to benefit the state rather than the individual. He that is truly educated will respect the rights of others, will appropriate to himself what is just and right, will reverence and defend the institutions under which the joys of life flow to him. Therefore the surest means of a government perpetuating itself is an educated citizenship. Parents who have not been interested in education will open their hearts as the state opens the doors of the school house and have their children educated. The time is coming when every young man or woman who goes out to battle with the conflicts of life must have some training for those conflicts. Let us therefore use every means to make education universal.

Since the state provides means for free education its right to enforce the use of these means will not be questioned by sound reasoning. And hence we have agreed that the real object of free public education is to benefit the state rather than the individual, children must be educated. The state must see that the elements which make it permanent are properly developed. Education is one of the most potent. Education here undermeans its most useful. That useful form is the ability to do some of the world's work. To do some kind of work well and continuously. I know there are some parents who are not able to educate their children as they should be, for them we have sympathy. But there are many parents have children growing up in ignorance because the parents haven't interest enough to compel their attendance at school.

Selfishness of the ignorance as shown by some parents who deprive their children of education still urges stronger means. We are warranted in coming to the conclusion that national good can not be trusted to the whims of the individual parents. Some parents permit their children to grow up in ignorance to manhood and womanhood and see them compelled to fall in the rear of all the strong and useful

with great humility. However indifferent this looks the fact remains the same that some care more for a few dimes to be made today than they do about the usefulness of their children to society which they must help make.

Some parents, I must confess, indulge their children too much. If the child does not care to attend school and will frame some kind of an excuse for not going they will excuse them. This weakness of the parent has its fearful reward. From it is recruited the idly vicious of society. He will make excuses from day to day until after a while he stops attending school, because the parents have failed to exercise their influence. Such cases are sad, sad indeed. Nine cases out of ten the boy or girl becomes indolent, without any purpose and at last vicious, drifting to destruction, carrying society down with him. Dies a burden to the state and humanity.

Compulsory education is the only means of securing education to the masses. Our race most especially cannot afford to be idle. We have everything to

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Great is the advantage to us if we all could see the subject in the same clear light, and since it is a fact that we all do not attach the same importance to it, it has become a law that children must go to school. If the parents have not enough interest in their welfare, then the law must take them in hand. Such should have been the case years ago, and perhaps by this time the state as a whole could have seen great results, and since the public schools are given free the compulsory education will be the cause of this great object not being defeated.

I think I voice the sentiment of all the promoters of education when I say that a more beneficial law could not have been passed, for it will make men and women of many boys and girls who otherwise will be lost. I see great prospects for the state if the compulsory educational laws are enforced. I see great educators arising. I see bright lights springing up and causing education to spread.

Classmates, let us as we leave the walls of Old Fred Douglass school exalt education.

Now that we have finished the course prescribed by this school, it is only a beginning of what we

## PYTHIAN GRAND LODGE.

Kansas City Lodges and Courts Preparing to Entertain Delegates and Visitors in a Royal Manner.

On July 24, when the Pythian special arrives at the Union station in Kansas City, Mo., all on board will find an old time welcome awaiting them. Dr J Edward Perry, Prof H H Graham, Prof D N Crosthwait, the "Old Roman," James P Maynard and enthusiastic Kansas City Pythians are bending every effort to make perfect their arrangements for caring for the 22nd Convocation of the Missouri Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias. Their efforts are being crowned with marvellous success. Many features have been thoroughly arranged and the public will be completely informed of what is in store for them if they visit Kansas City during Grand Lodge week.

Camp Butler, where the Uniform Rank will abide, is situated in one of the best parks in the city, easily reached by electric car service. Visitors will be furnished guides so that they may not experience any difficulty in going to and from important centers.

Convention hall, having an immense seating capacity, has been secured for the competitive drills and grand Pythian ball on the 26th of July. No Pythian, residing near Kansas City, should fail to witness the Convention hall affair on the above mentioned date. Two hundred dollars will be awarded in cash prizes to the competitors in this drill contest. Music for this occasion will be furnished by the celebrated Regimental Band—25 pieces, of St Louis aided by the recently organized Pythian Band of Kansas City consisting of 22 pieces.

Other amusements that will both delight and entertain the public will be plentifully provided. At Camp Butler each day you may see company and battalion drill, guard mount, dress parade and hear band concerts

hope to learn in the future. For as one writer has said, "A little learning is a dangerous thing. Drink deep or taste not that epian spring."

If so greater results will be obtained than ever before. And as the poet says:

"From the lowest depth poverty, to the highest heights of fame, From obscurity of position, to bright and shining name, From a mass of common people, who compose a common clan,

You can earn your way to greatness, by the educated plan."

every morning and evening. Social functions will be in evidence everywhere.



**J. EDWARD PERRY, M. D.**  
Chairman of Kansas City arrangement committee. A great Pythian leader of the West.

The best homes of the city have thrown open their doors to receive and care for visitors. No one need have any fears of lack of accommodations. If you are planning to attend you should write Prof H H Graham, 704 East 12th St, Kansas City, Mo, stating when you will arrive and he will have the committee to look to you. Board and lodging may be secured for \$1.00 per day.

St. Louis Pythians, always equal to the emergencies, have chartered a special train named "The Pythian Special," and will leave Union station, St. Louis, at 10 p m July 23 via the Mo. Pac. This train is scheduled to reach Kansas City at 8 a m on the 24th.

All Pythian eyes are now directed Kansas Cityward. All along the line the boys are getting ready. Let every lodge send in their best reports.

The Kansas City local committee is composed as follows:

J P Maynard W M Saunders  
A C Randall Dr J E Dible  
Walter Pritchard Capt B E Wat-  
R H Browning Kins  
C M Steamer John Yates  
B W Walker Mrs J L Combs  
Mrs Emma Cunningham.

## OFFICERS.

Dr J Edward Perry, Chairman.  
J P Maynard, First Vice-Chairman.  
Mrs Grace Denny, Second Vice-Chairman.  
Harry R Graham, Secretary.  
Harry Williams, Assistant Secretary.

D N Crosthwaite, Treasurer.

## HONORARY.

A W Lloyd, Grand Chancellor.  
W H Robinson, Brigadier General.  
Headquarters: 704 East 12th street.

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